

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

- I-287-001 *No. I had the impression that the project was being carried out when it was actually still in the approval phase. I don't fully understand the purpose of such massive lines that*
- I-287-002 *lose energy as they transfer it. Nor do I understand why we need such massive lines running across the entire state. I have been informed that the assessment of need didn't include the past 3 years, when energy use has actually decreased. I have also been informed that very little of the energy is slated for use in Minnesota. This project, according to information I had to collect with my own research efforts, will not be benefiting Minnesotans - it*
- I-287-003 *will just be an eyesore that destroys our landscape and resources and cause great resentment. Other (greener)*
- I-287-004 *options need to be considered and Minnesotans need to get*
- I-287-005 *the truth and whole story behind these lines.*

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Trost

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 3149 County 30 Blvd

City: Kenyon

State: MN

Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-287-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-287-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-287-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-005

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-287-006

I-287-007

I-287-008

I-287-009

Our farm is located in Holden Township. We produce feed and raise livestock. These lines would disrupt the agriculture in this area and could pose dangers to the livestock and farmers. Wooded areas would need to be cleared, which would disrupt hunting, another important activity for my family. Massive transmission lines would spoil the pristine beauty of this rural agricultural community.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-287-010

I-287-011

I-287-012

Natural and biological resources definitely need to be considered. Vast areas of forest need to be cleared for such lines creating smaller patches of woods that do not meet the habitat needs of all species. Many efforts are in place to preserve and protect the Big Woods in this area and power lines should not be an exception. I am also concerned about the effect EMF from the power lines can have on plant and animal species as well as residents in the area. Farmland is also a resource that is becoming more valuable everyday. We cannot afford to compromise our excellent farmland in this area to make way for transmission lines.

Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-287-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-007

Your comment card has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Family member attended Mtg- Cannon Falls, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need The need for energy has decreased in MN in the last three years.
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources Have you seen these lines?! They're huge and they cut through beautiful landscapes.
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation) -These lines are going to go through many Minnesota farms.
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites Many trees will be cleared in the right of way of the lines!
- ☒ Radio or television interference, and GPS on farm equipment
- ☒ Noise

- I-287-013 ☒ Health and safety, EMF, danger of electric shocks under the lines!
- ☒ Other: Property values

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

- I-287-014 This will be a huge construction project that will destroy a lot of land in Minnesota. These lines do not seem to be a sensible solution to the growing energy needs, especially since energy use has decreased in the last three years. The coal plants that are supposed to be built are an outdated form of energy production. Let's make this project more green by finding solutions that create less pollution and destroy less of our land and agricultural resources, and are closer to the area of need.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-287-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-013

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-014

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.